

# First Statewide Conference For ADA Coordinators

The first Statewide Conference for Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinators attracted coordinators with responsibility for ADA compliance from 42 counties. The conference, April 26–27 in Costa Mesa, was sponsored by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee and the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER).

During the two days, the coordinators heard a distinguished faculty of judges and county and state officials discuss topics such as the capabilities of individuals with disabilities, issues facing special populations, the costs of accommodation, ADA definitions and law, and rule 989.3 and Form MC-410. The discussion of "What Is an ADA Coordinator?" covered the following subtopics: (1) evaluating program access and implementing change, (2) obtaining and coordinating barrier removal and providing effective communication, (3) dealing with accommodation requests, and (4) establishing an ADA internal grievance procedure.

One session was devoted to Orange County's experience in successfully complying with ADA requirements: obtaining funding, developing and implementing a facilities management strategy, coordinating with all courthouse sites to develop informational pamphlets, and providing this information on the Superior Court of Orange County's Web site.

Small-group sessions focused on case scenarios that allowed participants to identify problems and solutions.

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Executive Officer Terry McNally of Kern County Superior Court, a member of the Disabilities Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee, served as ADA conference committee co-chair. *Photo: Judge Frederick P. Horn.*